



**LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS:**

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

June 2007

Issue No. 435

Local Hams Aid with MS Walk

Article by Bob Conder K4RLC

The ham radio contribution to the 2007 Multiple Sclerosis Walk was a great success on many fronts. First, Phoebe, the MS Society Director, reported that this Walk was their best ever, with over 3,000 walkers raising three-quarters of a million dollars for research into a cure for this crippling and incurable disease of young adults. That really made all the work that Alanna K4AAC and I put into organizing the event terrifically worthwhile.

Second, we had almost 20 ham radio volunteers give their valuable time for this event. They were a fun and easy group to work with. And without the hams as part of the 200 overall volunteers, this event could not have happened.



Above: James Allen III KG4ISM, Mark Freeze WD4KSE, and Andy Peterson NI4S at the event.



Above: Bobby Conder W4RPC serving as Net Control during the event.

Lastly, public service can be good practice for emergencies. This walk was a 5 mile event, covering a large part of RTP. Not all hams could hit the designated repeater, so we had to use simplex. Covering a large area on simplex with HTs can be challenging. A few used mobiles (Net Control and SAGs) and one ham used crossband from his HT at a rest station to his more powerful mobile. Others experimented with gain antenna for HTs. Another made a "possum tail" of 19-inch solid copper wire wrapped around the base of the rubber duck – this essentially made a vertical dipole, and increased the gain significantly over the basic HT antenna. Others provided relays when none of the above worked. All these creative and practical solutions are exactly what hams do in real emergencies.

In summary, Alanna and I want to thank all the volunteers for making the 2007 MS Walk a great event and hope to see you next year.

RARS Officers

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

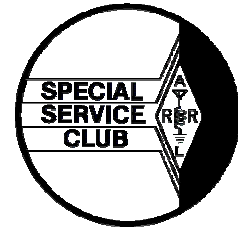
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:

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KI4HOS
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Let's Make RARS Run!

Please help us continue to provide quality programs, activities, and events for our club members. One of the ways we do this is through the RARS annual dues.

The membership year is July 1-June 30. Renewal notices will be mailed in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout for yours in the mail.

There are a number of ways to pay your dues.

- Pay at the RARS meetings
- Mail your dues to
Greg Seamster KE4PAX
RARS Treasurer
1405 Leanne Court
Raleigh, NC 27606
- Pay online at www.rars.org/joinrars.htm. Simply go to the RARS homepage and select Join/Renew membership

Members can also pay their dues for multiple years.

Dues	
Regular	\$18
Senior	\$12
Associate	\$9
Family Members	\$5

We couldn't do it without you!

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

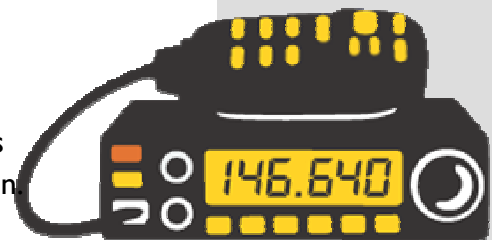
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



Board Meeting Time Change

All RARS members are welcome to attend the RARS Board of Directors meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. These meetings are held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church, usually in Conference Room 1. This meeting will now begin at 7:00 pm.

June RARS Meeting

Tuesday, June 5, 2007 @ 7:30 pm

Topic: "Field Day — What is it?"

Presenter: Neal Fisher - N4HAF

Public Service Opportunity: Fourth of July Firecracker 100K Bike Event

Benefiting the MS Society, this annual event begins and ends in Cary, NC. Hams are needed to provide communications support for event coordinators, rest stops, and Supply & Gear (SAG) vehicles. Modest assistance is being offered to offset gas expenses for those driving SAG vehicles. A coordinator for the hams is also needed — it's an easy job!

There will be good food and lots of fun with this event. And don't worry — you'll be done in time for that Fourth of July picnic and fireworks show!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Dick KD4ISC (kd4isc@arrl.net).

President's Corner

**Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
RARS President**

Summer is right around the corner and with it comes one of amateur radio's biggest events – Field Day. The RARS event will be held June 23 & 24 at the Carroll farm in Apex. Watch for information on the RARS website as well as in the *Exciter* and through net announcements. This is a great opportunity for technician class licensees to operate at general and extra class levels under the guidance of a control operator.

The RARSfest Workers' Picnic on June 16th is the club's "Thank You" to those who did such a great job this year. There will be public service opportunities ranging from local to long-distance events. These events are another way to show others what amateur radio can do.

Hamfest season is in full swing, and close to home will be the Durham-fest on May 26 and the Winston-Salem hamfest on June 9. All hamfests need our support, and it's great when you can put a face with a voice.

Congratulations to all those who have upgraded or are new to the hobby. No matter what you think of the relaxed code requirements, there has definitely been a surge in interest for amateur radio at all levels.

Have a wonderful summer!

Welcome New RARS Members!

Rudy Coronado, Jr.	KG4QEY
Charles Gramm	KI4VMD
Bob Wells	KI4VTA

Hamfest Calendar

June 9	Hamfest Winston-Salem, NC
July 7	Firecracker Fest Salisbury, NC
July 21	Cary Swapfest Cary, NC
July 28	Western Carolina Hamfest Waynesville, NC
August 4	Hamfest Roanoke, VA
August 11	Hamfest Fayetteville, NC

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal* and other sources. If you would like your even listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

June Birthdays

Bob	K1RCB	6/1
Charles	KI4DCR	6/3
Gwen	KF4EUT	6/5
Shelby	NC4SH	6/6
Jon	KG4ZVT	6/8
Kurt	KI4NQX	6/8
Kelly	AE4FG	6/8
Tim	W4TIM	6/9
Charles	NZ0I	6/11
Tim	WB4BAH	6/11
Russell	KE4IFE	6/13
Nancy	KE4PPW	6/13
Jack	KF4EZT	6/17
Jose	KD4JWF	6/18
Wayne	KD4SLQ	6/19
Bud	KG4IJQ	6/19
Steve	KA8HXX	6/21
William	W4AK	6/21
Bobbie	KD4ZVW	6/22
Kelly	KD4EWG	6/24
Marian	K1MRB	6/24

April 2007 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
 Check-ins: 426
 Traffic: 33/24
 Minutes: 668
 Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets
 Check-ins: 80
 Minutes: 470
 Sessions: 14

Board Meeting - April 2007

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for April 2007

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on April 17, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL, Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, Rick Crapse KB4TKQ, Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Neal Fischer N4HAF, and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and a second from Chuck K4HF, the March Board meeting minutes were approved as grammatically corrected.

Officers' Reports

President's report – Selene KG4RMT advised she would like to get the club members more involved in club activities and will issue an invitation to all members to actively participate in the club.

Vice President's report – Selene KG4RMT provided the following information:

- Donations for meeting refreshments are still helping to offset costs to the club.
- The May program topic will be a video presentation by Gary Pearce KN4AQ on the 2006 USA ARDF Championship Event. Gary and event coordinator Charles Scharlau NZ0I will be available to discuss the event and answer questions after the video.
- Selene asked if the Secretary had a copy of Robert's Rules of Order available for club meetings. Dick KD4ISC produced a copy of Robert's Rules of Order Revised which he brings to every meeting.

Treasurer's report – Greg KE4PAX reported the following:

- There are 251 club members.
- A preliminary budget for review will be presented later in the meeting. Once reviewed and approved by the Board next month, the budget will be presented to the general membership in June for approval.
- A financial review meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30pm at Greg's home. Chuck K4HF, Hank K4HM and Charlie WB4DCM will assist Greg with the review.

Committee Reports

Education – Chuck K4HF provided an update in Virginia Enzor's (NC4VA) absence. Classes are still in the works with several tentative dates.

Exciter – Selene KG4RMT advised Thursday, April 19 is the deadline for the May Exciter.

Board Meeting - April 2007

Net Manager – Mary KG4OQA reported the nets are going on very well.

Webmaster – Selene KG4RMT advised that Steve Worley KB4HDQ has asked to be made aware of any changes that need to be made to the website. The group agreed it was time to move Dick Bitner's (W8HYD) memorial from the main page to a link on another area of the website. A message expressing the club's thanks for everyone's RARSfest participation needs to be placed on the main page. General main page clean up is also needed.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM provided a brief preliminary financial review of the hamfest. The finances are meeting projections. The J Pole building table was a big success as was the special event station. QLF participation was up this year. Overall the event was a tremendous success. Next year's prices for the fairgrounds facility will increase. The Saturday set up day fee will also be increasing. A general discussion of next year's dates for the event as well as a possible Saturday hamfest followed. The RARSfest workers' party will be held at Lake Crabtree on Saturday, June 16.

Field Day – Neal N4HAF advised the budget for the event will be \$600 again this year. The planning is completed and the band captains are set. Setup will begin on Friday, June 22.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC advised we're getting a chance to catch our breath on public service events. The Tour de Cure is being coordinated by Bill Cole KG4CXY in June. We should anticipate assisting with the July 4 Firecracker bike ride.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF reported ARRL presentations at RARSfest. The digital presentation was well received.

Old Business

Selene KG4RMT reminded members to work on their job descriptions for review by the group.

New Business

Greg KE4PAX provided a review of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2007-2008. The budget review will be announced at the next general meeting. Approval by the Board will take place at the May meeting and the membership will vote to approve the budget at the June general meeting.

Outstanding donations made by the club will be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

Greg also reported that Jim Davis KG4ZWS has 100-150 feet of 7/8 inch foam feedline the he would like to donate to the club. Greg will talk with Gary KN4AQ to see if the

Board Meeting - April 2007

feedline could be used with the club's equipment. The members were in general agreement to accept the donation if the logistics of pickup and storage can be worked out.

Greg has sent out an email announcement for the Jack Hatley W4NJC estate sale and auction that will take place on May 5.

General Comments

Hank K4HM advised the return on investment for RARSfest appears to be 12%.

Mary Jo K4MJL asked for assistance in determining the amount of dues to collect for the various membership situations she is often presented with at the meetings. A lengthy discussion followed which hopefully provided clarification for Mary Jo's questions.

Selene KG4RMT reported that Robert Sutton KD4GWB is looking for a 2 meter/70 cm radio so that he can get back into the hobby.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, Secretary

General Meeting - May 2007

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for May 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on May 1, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Selene welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting and announced that VE testing was taking place upstairs.

The following guests were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Jason Evans KI4GMX and Bob Wells (waiting on callsign).

Selene read the Treasurer's report. There are 254 RARS members. She also reported that the Board is reviewing the budget for the 2007-8 fiscal year. Anyone with budget requests should advise the Board prior to the May Board meeting. The budget will be presented to the membership for approval at the June meeting.

Announcements:

- There are several RARS members dealing with health issues. Meme Orander KE4NGM is recovering at Rex Hospital. Alan Pitegoff is at home recovering from a recent surgery. Selene read a note from Harriette King KF4SER advising of Carl's KU4HM recent injury and recovery. Please keep them all in your thoughts.
- There will be an auction of the estate of Jack Hatley W4NJC on Saturday, May 5. Details are on the trader's table.
- The RARS dinner will be on Tuesday, May 8 at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue at 6:30pm.
- Hamfests: Rockingham on May 12, Dayton on May 18, 19 and 20, Durham on May 26 and Winston Salem on June 9.

Dick Orander KD4ISC reported that after a brief break in the public service action, more activities are on the way. The Tour de Cure will take place on the weekend of June 9 and 10. This bike event will leave Cary, overnight in the Oxford area, and return to Cary the next day. The Carolina Helping Hams are coordinating this event and more information can be found at their website www.hampublicservice.org. Members should also anticipate assisting with the Fourth of July Firecracker bike ride in Cary and remember the MS150 in New Bern that will take place in September. Stay tuned to the 8pm net as well as the email list and club webpage for more details and events.

Selene reminded members that Field Day is coming up on the weekend of June 23 and 24. All members are encouraged to participate. Details can be found on the club's webpage. The Jamboree On The Air will take place on October 22. Chris Thomson KI4MMV is coordinating this event. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Hank Montgomery K4HM asked hamfest committee members to complete their worker

reports. The hamfest workers' party will be held at Crabtree Lake Park on Saturday, June 16.

Door prizes were won by: Robert Wells, Rich Saccoccia KR4AS and Rudolph Coronado KG4QEY.

The floor was given to Gary Pearce KN4AQ who showed his video of the 2006 USA Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Championship that was held at Umstead Park. Gary was joined after the video by Charles Scharlau NZ0I who commented on the competition and answered questions about fox hunting activities.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Attendance: 44

Dick Orander, KD4ISC, RARS Secretary

General Meeting - May 2007



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

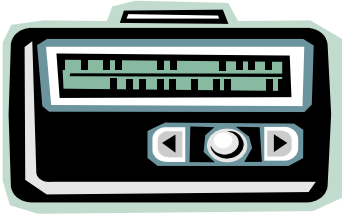


CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

May 1 — “Highlights of the April 15th Severe Weather Event” by Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

May 22 — “2007 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Outlook” with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX; National Hurricane Awareness Week.



Central Carolina SKYWARN Frequencies

- Primary: 146.88 (no tone)
- First Backup: 147.105 (tone 82.5)
- Second Backup: Carolina 440 UHF Link System (for those frequencies, please visit www.carolina440.net.)

The **Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5).

All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.



The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

MERCURY
AMATEUR
RADIO
ASSOCIATION **MARA**

The RARS

Exciter

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